Claims

1. A luminescent device comprising a gaseous tritium light source (GTLS) which provides a light output of pre-determinable intensity.

2. A device according to Claim 1, wherein the GTLS comprises 10 to 20 mCi of tritium.

3. A device according to either one of Claims 1 and 2, wherein the GTLS is located with an outer casing having at least one optically transparent or translucent portion.

4. A device according to Claim 3, wherein the outer casing is steel.

5. A device according to either one of Claims 3 and 4, wherein the transparent or translucent portion comprises a neutral density filter.

6. A device according to any one of Claims 3 to 5, wherein the transparent or translucent portion is formed from glass or plastic.

7. A device according to any one of Claims 1 to 6, wherein the device further comprises colouring means to alter the colour of the light output of the GTLS.

8. A device according to any one of Claims 1 to 7, wherein the GTLS is held within a housing, the housing being located in the outer casing.

9. A device according to any one of Claims 1 to 8, which is sized and shaped to calibrate the optical output of scientific apparatus.

10. A device according to Claim 9, wherein said apparatus is a luminometer, a fluorometer, a spectrophotometer, a scintillation counter, a photomultiplier, an avalanche photodiode or a CCD camera.

11. A device according to any one of Claims 1 to 8, wherein said device comprises a scalebar graticule.

12. A device according to any one of Claims 1 to 8, wherein said device comprises a filter array.

13. A kit comprising two or more luminescent devices according to any one of Claims 1 to 12, each said device providing a light output of a distinct intensity to the other devices of said kit.

14. A kit according to Claim 13, further comprising a magnetic handling tool and wherein each said device includes a magnetic component.

15. A kit according to either one of Claims 12 and 13, comprising three or more devices, each having a light output of a distinct intensity to the other devices of said kit.

16. A light measuring apparatus comprising a luminescent device as claimed in any one of Claims 1 to 12, housed in a sample holder of said apparatus.

17. An apparatus as claimed in Claim 16, which is a luminometer, a fluorometer, a spectrophotometer, a scintillation counter, a photomultiplier, an avalanche photodiode or a CCD camera.

18. A method of analysing a sample, said method comprising;

i) calibrating an apparatus able to detect light output using a device as claimed in any one of Claims 1 to 12;

ii) inserting said sample into the calibrated apparatus and obtaining a reading therefore.

19. A method as claimed in Claim 18, wherein the sample comprises living cells.